



Robert H. "Ty" Bailey

May 22, 1951 - February 16, 2021

Robert H. Bailey, "Ty," passed away peacefully in his Port Indian home with his family by his side. He was born on May 22, 1951 in Easton PA, the son of William N. Bailey and the late Sara Sturges. Ty was a 1970 graduate of St. Andrew's school in Boca Raton, Fl. He was an All-American Water Polo player, as well as editor of the school yearbook and arts journal. He continued his studies at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Ty lived in Connecticut, New York, and eventually landed in Philadelphia in 1973.

On February 14, 1975, Ty opened the highly successful Knave of Hearts restaurant where he was the chef-owner for 28 years. After a brief stint of employment at the Astral Plane restaurant, Ty was inspired to join the restaurant renaissance that was part of the city's resurgence after decades of decline. He found a store front property at 230 South Street and opened the Knave on Valentine's Day. He eventually bought adjacent properties and also expanded upwards to the second story where he opened the Love Lounge. Ty enjoyed sponsoring art shows and live music in the LoveLounge, but above all the Knave of Hearts was known as a romantic destination.

After selling the Knave, Ty changed career paths and found meaning and fulfillment working with children as a swim coach and aquatics instructor. Ty coached for the Phoenixville YMCA, Phoenixville High School, Episcopal Academy Aquatic Club, and Upper Main Line YMCA. He loved watching

swimmers improve, push themselves and achieve personal goals. Ty believed in perseverance and hard work and would often talk about always taking the high road, that there are no shortcuts to success.

Ty married his wife Britta on September 4, 1994. Together they had three children Aiden, Kahlia, and Taryn Bailey. He enjoyed outdoor adventures and sports with his family. He was a devoted husband, father, son, and brother.

Ty was introduced to running in the early 1980's and became a competitive and prolific distance runner and then triathlete. Ty completed over 40 marathons with a personal best sub 3-hour time. He also was particularly proud of his 6 Ironman triathlons including a sub 10hr finish.

Ty was a creative force. Whether in the kitchen, the garden (at one point having over 150 house plants), the printmaking studio, or with his written words, he had his own perspective which breathed life into the world around him. He had the gift of making the mundane tasks into an adventure. He proudly was the family photographer and was able to capture memories wherever he went with his infamous disposable cameras. He was a sporadic do it yourselfer – starting many projects and slowly completing most of them. He never met a dog that that did not fall under his uncanny dog-whisperer spell. Ty had a dry quick-witted sense of humor. He made and sustained strong friendships.

Ty is survived by his wife Britta Schasberger and his children Aiden, Kahlia and Taryn Bailey, his father Bill Bailey, his stepmother Jean Bailey, his brothers Tad Bailey and Peyton Sturges, his sister Sarah Bailey Turgeon, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ty is to be remembered as full of life, putting family and friendships first, and forever being proudest of his greatest accomplishments, Aiden, Kahlia, and Taryn.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a memorial service will be announced for a future time when family and friends can safely gather together.

In lieu of flowers or plants, please consider planting a tree (<http://shop.arborday.org/trees-in-memory>). Memorial Contributions may also be made in Ty's name to the Shipley School Tuition Assistance Fund (<https://www.shipleyschool.org/support-shipley>) or to the Phoenixville YMCA specifically noted for the Ty Bailey swim team memorial scholarship. (<https://www.philaymca.org/donate>)

Tribute Wall

RK

“ I started working at *The name of hearts* in my last year of college at University of Pennsylvania. It was 1983. Ty was larger than life and it was truly something for me to get to know someone like him back then. He treated all of us incredibly well, was always fun to be around and was overwhelmingly positive. One thing that has always stuck with me is his 1968 convertible purple mustang. He once said to me, "Rich when you drive a convertible you're there before you leave" . He actually threw a party for me when I left the restaurant, roasted a pig indoors in the "garden" and broke the glass windowed ceiling to let out the smoke. I saw him again 10 years later at the LA marathon where he for sure broke 3 hours. Yes, he looked and performed like a man of steel. My heart is out to his family, but know that you did truly have one of the best.
Peace and love,
Richard Katz

Richard Katz - November 01, 2022 at 05:58 PM

LS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Ty's passing. I met both Ty and Britta swimming at Penn back in the late 80s-90s. We all had fun working out and occasional post work out dinner at the *Knave of Hearts*. What a beautifully written tribute to Ty, it was like reliving the past. We had fun back then in our youth. Rest in peace and my condolences to his family.

Linda Sulzbach Hoke

Linda Sulzbach - March 03, 2021 at 11:23 AM



“ *I opened The Knave with Ty almost 50 years ago. It was a time when opening a restaurant was buying a stove , a three bin sink and some flea market tables and chairs. We both worked restaurant jobs to buy all the FF&E and I had an inheritance that helped with that first year. I was sad to hear of his passing and send condolences to his family. Joyce Levinson Shanks*

Joyce Shanks - March 03, 2021 at 10:39 AM

NB

I worked with Joyce and Ty at the Knave before it opened (refinishing furniture) and after (washing dishes and waiting tables). Theirs was an equal and artistic collaboration that resulted in a truly magical place. Joyce and Ty were dedicated to their vision and worked unbelievably hard to create the unique Knave. It was such a happy, hopeful, exhausting time. I am grateful to them for being such a big part of my life; I received a marriage proposal there, I treated my father to dinner there for our first (only) grown-up conversation, and Baumgardner Blue Cheese Dressing was inspired by my mother's recipe. I send my condolences to the Bailey family. I am very sorry to hear of Ty's passing. Nancy Baumgardner

Nancy Baumgardner - March 03, 2021 at 12:46 PM

CH

“ *i was an assistant chef at the Knave in the early 80's and i will always be grateful to Ty for giving this young dropout a chance to learn how to work hard at a new and critical skillset. i have carried that experience forward beyond kitchens into all kinds of work and i often refer back to the Knave kitchen as my proving ground.*

chris harvey - February 25, 2021 at 12:18 PM

WW

“ *My thoughts are with you during this time. I always enjoyed seeing you at slc conferences and how we would continue meeting, even after the kids were through kindergarten. Your children were always nurtured with knowledge and love. Ty will be missed. He had a gentle nature and he was proud of each of you.*

Wendy Weaver - February 21, 2021 at 09:18 AM

AS

“ *Ty is the epitome of what living and swimming are all about: doing your best and showing up each day. He made my childhood and teen years so happy and carefree. Swimming was important but wasn't the end all be all, and that perspective that Ty taught me is one that I hold in my life each day.*

Amanda Sierzega - February 20, 2021 at 03:25 PM

JB

“ I met Ty some years ago on the Schuylkil River trail while he was walking the family dog, Bailey. We would stop and chat each time we crossed paths. Sometimes we would lose track of time discussing all kinds of subjects. But mostly his conversation would center around his family, namely his wife Britta and their 3 children. He was so proud of them. He was always boasting about all of their accomplishments whether that be from academics or extracurricular activities at Shipley or other outside activities. I think I know more about Aiden, Kahlia and Taryn than I know about my own nieces and nephews. My sincerest condolences to Britta and the three children. Although it's an extremely difficult time for all of you please take solace by knowing how much he idolized all of you. Although his time here on earth was cut way too short, he was so proud of all of you. He enjoyed his family so much. He was a good friend to me and an all around a great guy. The trail will never be the same without hm. Rest in peace my dear friend and may God grant you eternal life. Until we meet again...



Jim Busciacco - February 20, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ What a beautifully written tribute to a man who lived a very full life. I will certainly miss seeing his smile on deck at meets. I am glad I had the opportunity to work with him and get to know he and his family. The impact that he had on young swimmers in this area will not soon be forgotten. Rest easy Coach Ty.

Carrie Berg - February 20, 2021 at 07:55 AM

JM

“ I had taryn in my preschool class. Ty was always kind and had a deep love for his children. Very good guy.

jennifer morrison - February 19, 2021 at 07:57 PM

TM

“ We met Ty and his beautiful family through our son, a swimmer and coach at PAY. Though about 35 years separated them, Daniel and Ty became fast and endearing friends; coaching and enjoying outdoor activities together and with Ty and Britta’s cool kids, Aiden, Kahlia, and Taryn. We enjoyed Ty’s company and stories. He was always kind, present, and positive with had a true gift of gab. We will miss this sweet man. Our hearts ache for your devastating loss. God Bless. RIP, Ty Bailey....
jim & theresa mcguigan

theresa mcguigan - February 19, 2021 at 02:18 PM

CR

“ So sad to hear of this but do privileged to have know Ty and I have so many fond memories. From Knave picnics, to being WallyBall Champs at Queens Village Racquet Club, to making pretend we were moving men and moving the huge oven out the Knave’s kitchen, to having Ty and Brittany at my wedding. And Ty and I bonded with our passion for 80’s music. Even though I hadn’t been in touch with Ty for decades, I will remember him fondly and I want to send my heartfelt condolences to you Britta and the kids. R.I.P. my friend.

Craig Radel - February 19, 2021 at 10:00 AM

JM

“ Ty Bailey was a still water when at times the current of all things PAY swimming was rough surf. He was an inspiration to my children in grit, endurance, empathy and positivity. May Heaven welcome that infectious smile! Blessings to the Bailey family and may your happiest memories lift you over your sadness. -- Jeane McNamara

Jeane McNamara - February 19, 2021 at 09:43 AM

BB

“ Ty was such an incredible coach and person. I feel so fortunate to have been able to swim on two of his teams, along side of my brother. His family is in my thoughts.



Beau Bradley - February 19, 2021 at 12:17 AM

ES

“ Coach Ty was indeed one of those special people that all of us affiliated with PAHS and/or PAY over the years were honored to be associated with. An unforgettable angel among us who will always be remembered. Rest easy gentle soul and Thanks for your presence among us.

Ed Sierzega - February 18, 2021 at 10:40 PM

GC

“ The above is a beautiful tribute to a great man, that few, if any could find an ill word for. Ty's zest for life, his wisdom and perspective brightened any day you had the pleasure to encounter him. He taught my oldest son to swim, and passed on the day of his senior HS recognition. I had the pleasure to encounter Ty on deck at PAY, EA AND UMLY. Rarely were he or his swimmers in the right heat, lane or sometimes zip code, but they were always smiling, laughing and completely unaffected. His swimmers, and those that knew the warm steady hand of "Coach Ty" are, without question, blessed.

Greg Christian - February 18, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert H. "Ty" Bailey.*



February 18, 2021 at 08:08 PM



“ *One of my favorite coaches, always found a way to make every kid regardless of ability feel so special, I remember joking around with him before races and discussing pre race strategy. He was always the most positive person on deck*

Maggie McNamara - February 18, 2021 at 08:00 PM



“ *Coach Ty had such an impact on our family. He taught all 4 of my kids to swim. He was very kind to my family and anyone who came across his path. So many great memories! Love and prayers to you.*

Stephanie Sposato - February 18, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ *Coach Ty taught all my kids to swim at the YMCA. I loved seeing his smiling face and he always always took time to stop and say hello . So encouraging at swim meets .. and a great dad too. We are all sorry for your loss*

Suzan Schlachta - February 18, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ *I remember Ty having the sweetest heart. Always available and willing to lend a hand. Great dad too!*

Beth Semple - February 18, 2021 at 05:26 PM